ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Initial image data having a pixel size smaller than a pixel size of a final image are obtained by using line sensors arranged in a main scan direction and a vertical scan direction, and the final image becomes of high quality by processing the initial image data to prevent the image from becoming uneven. Integration processing means carries out a first conversion process to convert the initial image data comprising signals detected by the line sensors into data for pixels divided in the main scan direction. The integration processing means carries out a second conversion process in which, whenever the data are obtained for three consecutive pixels in the main scan direction, the data are added to become data for one pixel of the final image. The data for the final image are then subjected to an equalization process such as dark current correction carried out by a correction means.